

Malachi 4:2 But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

Dear brothers and Sisters

The prophet Micah who lived in the time of the Israelite Kings Ahaz and Hezekiah prophesied to these rulers what God intended to do if the people of Samaria and Judah did not repent of their Idolatrous ways and turn again to the laws that God had given them through Moses. They were given due warning of the consequences if they failed to reform. Micah warned them that :- Therefore night *shall be* unto you, that you shall not have a vision; and it shall be dark unto you, that you shall not divine; and the **sun shall go down over the prophets**, and the day shall be dark over them. Then shall the seers be ashamed, and the diviners confounded: yea, they shall all cover their lips; for ***there is no answer of God***. (Mic 3:6). The situation was critical and they were given due warning **Micah 3:9** “Hear this, I pray you, you heads of the house of Jacob, and princes of the house of Israel, that abhor judgment, and pervert all equity. They build up Zion with blood, and Jerusalem with iniquity. The heads thereof judge for reward, and the priests thereof teach for hire, and the prophets thereof divine for money: yet will they lean upon the LORD, and say, *Is not the LORD among us? No evil can come upon us. Therefore shall Zion for your sake be ploughed as a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the mountain of the house as the high places of the forest.* (Mic 3:9) Yahweh’s warning was fulfilled: **Ezekiel 21:25-27** And thou, profane wicked prince of Israel, (Zedekiah) whose day is come, when iniquity *shall have* an end, Thus says the Lord GOD; Remove the diadem, and take off the crown: this *shall not be* the same: exalt *him that is low*, and abase *him that is high* I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no *more*, until he come whose right it is; and I will give it *him*. So it came to pass that Nebuchadnezzar and his armies came against Judaea destroying Jerusalem and taking the Jews to Babylon where they remained for 70 years. True that after that period the descendants of that generation returned to it: but the Davidic Kingdom never recovered for God said “it shall be no *more*, until he come whose right it is; and I will give it *him*. (Eze 21:27)” Instead Judaea was the subject of gentile nations and when the Lord Jesus began his ministry the country had become subject to Roman governors. The Jews rejected the Lord Jesus Christ

coercing with the Romans for death by crucifixion. However after 3 says in the tomb the Lord Jesus was raised from the dead, and the disciples **received the assurance that he was truly alive 2 Peter 1:17** when he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, **This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased**. This is confirmed by Matthew's account **Matthew 17:1** And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and brought them up into an high mountain apart, ² And was transfigured before them: and **his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light**. And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him. Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if you will, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. While he yet spoke, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. (Mat 17:1 KJV) This is the Sun of righteousness whom the apostle Paul encountered. **Acts 9:1** And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem. And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and **suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven**: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me And he said, Who are you, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus who you are persecuting: *it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks*. And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord *said* unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. (Act 9:1 KJV)

Again Paul told Agrippa (Acts 26:13) **"At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me. And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why are you me persecuting me? *it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks*". And I said, who are you, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. But rise, and stand upon your feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those**

things in the which I will appear unto thee; Delivering you from the people, and the Gentiles, to whom now I send thee, To open their eyes, *and* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me. (Act 26:15-18)

IT does not “please the eyes” to look at the literal sun. This is a spiritual statement, as is the phrase, “those that *see the sun*” in 7:11. “The LORD is a *sun* and shield” (Psalm 84:11); “The LORD is my *light* and my salvation” (Psalm 27:1); “In thy light shall we see light” (Psalm 36:9); “The LORD shall be thy everlasting light, and thy God thy glory” (Isaiah 60:19). For James, God is “the Father of lights” (James 1:17); and of the New Jerusalem, John writes: “The glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof” (Revelation 21:23).

The Lord Jesus inherits this symbolism, as the “light of the world” (John 8:12; 9:5 etc.). He is “the Sun of Righteousness” who will rise with healing in his beams (Malachi 4:2). At the Transfiguration “his face did shine as the sun” (Matthew 17:2; see also Revelation 1:16).

The wonder is that the faithful, too, will “shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father” (Matthew 13:43). We are privileged to be “lights in the world, holding forth the Word of Life” (Philippians 2:15, 16; see also Matthew 5:14).^t It is such elevated thoughts that give us pleasure, though they be tempered by the possibility of coming “days of darkness” (11:8).ⁱ

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Psalm 84:9 -12 Behold, O God our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed, For a day in thy courts *is* better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. For the **LORD God *is* a sun and shield**: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good *thing* will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. O LORD of hosts, blessed *is* the man that trusts in thee.

Isaiah 60:18 Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders; but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise. ¹⁹ The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the LORD shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory. ²⁰ Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for the LORD shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended. ²¹ Thy people also *shall be* all righteous: they shall inherit the land for ever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified. ²² A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation: I the LORD will hasten it in his time. (Isa 60:18 KJV)

